

Special Services Advisory Committee Meeting Notes
Waukesha County DHHS – Brookfield Room
September 16th, 2010

Members Present: Don Daniels, Jesus Mireles, Trisha Nepper, Erin Zellmer, Vickie Smith, Teri O'Grady, Julie Turkoske, Missy Kueht-Becker, Nichole Hunkins, Sherry Perez, Patrick Jauquet, Pam Klintner, Ann Shurte

Members Absent: Deb DeMaster, Katherine Evans, Dennis Farrell, Sharon Fliess, Bonnie Siegel, Cheri Sylla, Eve Altizer, Mary Jo Foye, Barbara Fredericks, Sheryl Gerstl, Mary Ann Jensen, Mary Beth Jezo-Sywoulka, Stephanie Mauck, Ken and Julie Perkins, Lora J. Sullivan, and Katie Wallenslager.

The meeting began at 12:05 PM.

Agenda Item #1: Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and stated whether they were a parent, community professional, or Human Services staff.

Agenda Item #2: Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes from May 20th, 2010 meeting occurred. Seconded and passed.

Agenda Item #3: Report from State Long Term Care Committee:

Julie Turkoske attended the August meeting for the State's Long Term Care Committee. Julie reported the following information from the meeting:

- Counties are doing a good job using waiver monies which are being allocated to them.
- As of August 10th, 2010, there are 4,743 children on the waiver statewide.
- The state is piloting a "Thresholds" program (Compass Wisconsin) in Racine and Walworth Counties, with the hopes that it will streamline the intake process for the CLTS Waiver, FSP, COP and Katie Beckett. A goal of this program is to make it simpler for parents to access multiple programs.
- Julie passed out a statistics sheet from Compass Wisconsin's quarterly report, which includes stats from April to June.
- Compass Wisconsin also has a website: <http://www.compasswisconsin.org>.
- Jesus Mireles noted that Waukesha County has attempted to streamline the process as well and created one application for both the Waiver and FSP. Jesus also stated that Waukesha County may offer to become a second pilot site for "Thresholds" if the project with Racine and Walworth counties is successful.
- The question was asked why Birth-to-Three is not included in this consolidated intake process. Missy Kueht-Becker noted that Birth-to-Three does not use the same

screening tool. Missy noted that the State is looking into the possibility of statewide Birth-to-three Waiver in the future.

- Discussion occurred regarding the potential loss of funding due to a possible change in governor. Julie stated that Governor Doyle has completed the current budget for 2011 and it would be up to the next elected official to sign off on Governor Doyle's budget and therefore no one can predict what will occur in the future.

Agenda Item #4: Education Segment:

Don Daniels led the education segment and informed the committee of the recent changes:

- FSP case manager, Jennifer Adler has moved to another unit within the division. Trisha Nepper remains a full time FSP case manager. Erin Zellmer, Vickie Smith, and Jennifer Cera (unable to be present for meeting) have divided Jennifer Adler's caseload. These three workers will also retain waiver case management responsibilities.
- The four FSP case managers will rotate their attendance to the Special Services Advisory Committee Meetings.
- As of July 20, 2010, 309 children are on Waukesha County's waitlist for FSP funding. Approximately 150 of them will receive funding in any given year.
- Several changes were made to the FSP annual questionnaire. These changes include:
 - o Altering the wording of some questions, to make them more precise,
 - o Reducing the total number of pages from four to three,
 - o Changing the weight of the scores in the hope that more children will be able to access funding. This change will result in the FSP funds being less available to children who already have waiver funding,
 - o Moving the due date for the annual questionnaire forward with the goal of beginning the first round of funding in January. (Committee members suggested that the return date on the questionnaire be highlighted for parents. Committee members also suggested that we consider putting the questionnaire on the County website for parents to access, making it electronically fill-able, or changing it to a 'pdf' format.),
 - o Don asked for discussion regarding question #14, which reads, "My child needs funding to pay for the following expenses that have not been mentioned in previous questions". Julie asked whether family income should be a weighted factor and/or whether families should have the ability to note expenses paid out of pocket (that might offset strict income level). Trisha noted that this used to be captured in the cost share worksheet. The Parental Payment Limit (PPL) form has replaced the cost share form. It factors in out-of-pocket expenses differently. The PPL is State mandated. The FSP staff and supervisor will revisit this question prior to the questionnaire being sent out on approximately October 15th, 2010.

- Don distributed a facts sheet of the percentages at which Waukesha County families have spent their FSP monies over the past two years. At the last Advisory Committee meeting, Dodge County staff stated that their families annually spend approximately 75% of their funds on respite. Waukesha County has only spent 2.9% for that service. It was noted that Dodge County does not have the advantage of the UCP respite program that many of our families currently access. Waukesha County's top three expenditures are Recreation/Alternative Activities at 36.6%, Special Equipment and Supplies at 28.2% and Home Modification at 12.4%. Special mention was given to the idea that parents choose how to spend funds and it is a family choice whether to access respite with their FSP funds.
- The county's philosophy regarding using FSP/waiver funds to purchase electronic devices has been liberalized, with support from the State. The committee was made aware that county staff have developed new electronics purchase forms to help them in making decisions regarding the appropriateness of such expenditures.

Agenda Item #5: Birth-to-Three Update:

Missy reported that B-to-3 is going to have an on-site review on October 5th, 2010. During part of their last State review, it was noted that B-to-3 is required to share their outcomes and that the program must have it documented how it plans to share those outcomes with others. Suggestions for how to share the outcomes included:

- Missy could discuss one B-to-3 outcome at each SSAC meeting,
- The information could be put on the county website,
- The information could be distributed at the bi-annual meeting B-to-3 has with the local school districts

It was determined that Missy would add at least one federal outcome to the advisory committee's agenda each time. She gave the current statistic that approximately 60% percent of the children that were discharged from the Birth-to-three program did not need to access on-going services such as an early childhood program.

Missy also provided the statistic that the number of Birth-to-Three clients is down but that the number is matching the birth rate for Waukesha County, which is also down.

Missy and Jesus are currently working to increase the amount of funding Birth-to-Three receives and Missy is happy to report that there has been no jobs lost yet even with budget cuts.

Other items discussed:

The committee would like to send condolences to Dennis Farrell, as his wife has recently passed away.

Nicole Hunkins noted that UCP was happy to announce that they only have a 20-person waiting list, which is the lowest it has been in some time. UCP is currently restructuring the way parents get access to respite providers on their website. Clients must access respite providers through a password system on the website. This change has the intent of preserving these providers, for whom UCP has paid to do background checks, for use by UCP clients. As things were, outside families were often hiring these providers, thereby limiting their availability to UCP families.

Nicole also gave out several fliers for "Joe's Run" which will be held on September 25th, 2010 in Hart Park. Nicole stated that this is their biggest fundraiser each year and they average about 600 participants.

Possible Educational Segments for future meetings:

Decision made to discuss the parental payment limit mandate and the corresponding letter that is sent to families.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Smith, CSW
Children with Special Needs Unit